

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A reel mechanism for use with a gaming system, comprising:

(A) at least one support member; and

5 (B) at least a first and second reel assembly attached to the support member, each reel assembly comprising:

(a) at least one chassis attached to the support member; and

(b) at least one reel rotatably attached to the chassis, the reel comprising a first side and a second side, the first side being attached to the chassis; and

10 (c) at least one motor coupled to the reel, the motor being configured to rotate the reel; wherein the first and second reel assemblies are positioned side-by-side, the second side of the reel of the first reel assembly being positioned proximate to the second side of the reel of the second reel assembly, thereby allowing the first and second reel assemblies to be positioned without the chassis of the first and
15 second reel assemblies being in-between the first and second reel assemblies.

2. The reel mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising a third reel assembly, the third reel assembly comprising:

(A) a least one chassis attached to the support member;

5 (B) at least one reel, the reel comprising a first side and a second side, the first side being rotatably attached to the chassis; wherein the third reel assembly is positioned at an angle relative to the second reel assembly causing a section of the reel of the third reel assembly to be proximate to a section of the reel of the second reel assembly.

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3. The reel mechanism according to claim 2, further comprising at least one fractional image on the reel of the second reel assembly and the reel of the third reel assembly, wherein the fractional images form a whole image when the fractional images are aligned.

15 4. The reel mechanism according to claim 2 further comprising at least one fractional image on the reel of the first reel assembly, the reel of the second reel assembly, and the reel of the third reel assembly, wherein the fractional images form a whole image when the fractional images are aligned.

5. The reel mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the support member comprises a first and a second section, the first section forms an angle with the second section, the chassis of the second reel assembly being attached to the first section and the chassis of the third reel assembly being attached to the second section, wherein the third reel assembly is positioned at an angle relative to the second reel assembly.
6. The reel mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the third reel assembly further comprises a wedge positioned between the chassis of the third reel assembly and the support member, wherein the third reel assembly is positioned at an angle relative to the second reel assembly.
7. The reel mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising at least one fractional image on the reel of the first reel assembly and the reel of the second reel assembly, wherein the fractional images form a whole image when the fractional images are aligned.

8. A method of producing contiguous indicia on a gaming device, comprising, but not necessarily in the order shown:

(A) positioning at least a first and a second reel assembly within a gaming device housing, each reel assembly comprising:

- 5 (a) at least one chassis;
- (b) at least one reel rotatably attached to the chassis;
- (c) the reel comprising a first side and a second side, the first side being attached to the chassis; and
- 10 (d) a motor coupled to the reel and configured to rotate the reel; wherein the second side of the first reel assembly is adjacent the second side of the second reel assembly, thereby allowing the first and second reel assemblies to be positioned without the chassis of the first and second reel assemblies being in-between the first and second reel assemblies; and
- (B) displaying indicia on the reels of the first and second reel assemblies.

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9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

(A) positioning a third reel assembly at an angle relative to the second reel assembly, wherein a section of the reel of the third reel assembly is proximate to the a section of the reel of the second reel assembly; and

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(B) displaying indicia on the reel of the third reel assembly.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein positioning the third reel assembly at an angle relative to the second reel assembly comprises attaching the second reel assembly to a support member with a first surface and a second surface, the first surface being non-parallel with the second surface, wherein the second reel assembly is attached to the first surface and the third reel assembly is attached to the second surface.
11. The method of claim 9, wherein positioning the third reel assembly at an angle relative to the second reel assembly comprises:
- (A) supporting the second reel assembly from a support member, the support member being substantially planar; and
 - (B) supporting the third reel assembly from the support member, a wedge being positioned between the chassis of the third reel assembly and the support member.
12. The method of claim 9 wherein the reel of the second reel assembly and the reel of the third reel assembly comprise at least one fractional image, further comprising aligning the fractional image of the second reel assembly with the fractional image of the third reel assembly.
13. The method of claim 9 wherein the reel of the second reel assembly and the reel of the third reel assembly each comprise at least one fractional image, further comprising aligning the fractional images of the first, second, and third reel assemblies.

14. The method of claim 8 wherein the reel of the first reel assembly and the reel of the second reel assembly each comprise at least one fractional image, further comprising aligning the fractional image of the first reel assembly with the fractional image of the second reel assembly.

15. A reel mechanism comprising:

(A) at least a first and second reel;

(B) a first motor having a central bore and a first drive shaft positioned in the bore, the first drive shaft having a hollow center, the first reel attached to the first drive shaft, wherein the first motor moves the first reel by rotating the first drive shaft; and

(C) a second motor having a second drive shaft extending through the bore and the hollow center of the first drive shaft, the second reel being attached to the second drive shaft, wherein the second motor moves the second reel by rotating the second drive shaft.

16. The reel mechanism of claim 15 wherein the second drive shaft comprises a portion extending past the second reel, the second drive shaft being rotatably supported at the portion extending past the second reel.

17. The reel mechanism of claim 15, further comprising a chassis adapted to support at least the first reel.

18. The reel mechanism of claim 15, further comprising a chassis adapted to support at least the second reel.

19. The reel mechanism of claim 15, further comprising a chassis adapted to support the first and second reels.

20. The reel mechanism of claim 15 wherein the reels rotate about a vertical axis.

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21. The reel mechanism of claim 15 wherein the reels rotate about a horizontal axis.

22. The reel mechanism of claim 15, wherein the first and second reel comprise media displaying a plurality of indicia, further comprising a controller in communication with the first and second motors, the controller adapted to cause the first and second motors to rotate the first and second reels and display indicia corresponding to a randomly determined game outcome.

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23. The reel mechanism of claim 22 further comprising at least one positioning system adapted to determine the position of the first and second reels and communicate the position of the first and second reels to the controller.

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24. The reel mechanism of claim 22, wherein at least a portion of the images on the first reel and the second reel comprise fractional images that form a unified, whole image when a fractional image on the first reel is aligned with a corresponding fractional image on the second reel.

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25. The method of claim 15, wherein the first and second reels are positioned without a chassis of the first reel and a chassis of the second reel being in-between the first and second reels.

26. A method of displaying a plurality of indicia, comprising, but not necessarily in the order shown:

(A) activating a first motor;

(B) activating a second motor, the second motor having a bore, the second motor

5 being attached to a tube;

(C) rotating a shaft attached to the first motor, the shaft passing through the bore of the first motor and into the tube;

(D) rotating the tube;

(E) rotating a first reel attached to the shaft;

10 (F) rotating a second reel attached to the tube.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the first and second reels comprise media displaying a plurality of indicia, further comprising:

(A) determining a random game outcome;

15 (B) rotating the shaft and the tube;

(C) stopping the first and second reels such that indicia conveying the random game outcome are displayed.

28. The method of claim 26 wherein the first and second reels comprise media displaying indicia, each reel displaying at least one fractional image, wherein the fractional images may form a whole, unified image when the first and second reels are properly aligned, further comprising:

- (A) determining a random game outcome;
- (B) rotating the shaft and the tube;
- (C) stopping the first and second reel such that indicia displayed by the first and second reel form the whole, unified image.

29. The method of claim 26, further comprising positioning the first and second reels in a housing without a chassis of the first reel and a chassis of the second reel being in-between the first and second reels.

30. The method of claim 26 wherein a portion of the shaft extends beyond the second reel, further comprising supporting the shaft at the portion that extends beyond the second reel.

31. A reel mechanism comprising:

- (A) a first reel means for rotating about an axis;
- (B) a second reel means for rotating about an axis;
- (C) first actuator means for rotating a shaft attached to the second reel; and
- (D) second actuator means for rotating a tube attached to the first reel, wherein the shaft passes through the second actuator means and the tube.

32. The reel mechanism of claim 31 wherein the first and second reel means comprise media means for displaying a plurality of indicia.

33. The reel mechanism of claim 32, further comprising controller means for activating the first and second actuator means, the controller means in communication with the first and second actuator means and adapted to cause the first and second actuator means to rotate the first and second reels and to stop the first and second reels such that the first and second reels display indicia corresponding to a game outcome.

34. The reel mechanism of claim 31 further comprising sensor means for determining the positions of the first and second reel means.

35. The reel mechanism of claim 31 further comprising support means for supporting a portion of the shaft that extends beyond the second reel means.